

## July 2021

### Contents

1. [Upcoming Events and Workshops](#)
2. [Teaching Assistant Training](#)
3. [New Teaching Tip Sheet: Resilient Course Design](#)
4. [New CTE videos](#)
5. [Staff Changes](#)
6. [CTE PD Day!](#)

### Upcoming Events and Workshops

#### [Supporting Student Mental Health \(for Instructors\)](#)

##### **An ongoing, self-directed course in LEARN**

The Supporting Student Mental Health module for instructors is a self-paced, independent experience that explores how to proactively support student mental health in your class and how to respond to mental health problems that come to your attention.



#### [Independent Remote Course Design Essentials \(iReCoDE\)](#)

##### **An ongoing, self-directed course in LEARN**

In this self-paced, independent course, instructors will be guided through the steps of preparing their remote course.

#### [Independent Blended Course Design \(iBlend\)](#)

##### **An ongoing, self-directed course in LEARN**

In this LEARN short course, participants will be guided through the development of a blended course using a learner-centered backwards design approach. Participants will complete a series of online modules designed to help instructors prepare a blended course.

#### [Introduction to PebblePad Part 2: Using PebblePad Features](#)

##### **Thursday, July 29 — 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm**

During this session, we will build on what we covered in the "Introduction to PebblePad Part 1" session. We will begin to create pages, portfolios, and templates from scratch. We'll explore the different features available in PebblePad to scaffold learning, including the workbook features.

#### [Extended Reality \(XR\) as a Learning Technology in the Context of the Covid-19 Pandemic](#)

##### **Thursday, July 29 — 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm**

Lynn Long will facilitate will present the findings of her recent research project: how the transition to remote learning has magnified existing social inequities for certain groups, and how to best leverage XR technologies with these social inequities in mind.

#### [New Faculty Teaching Days](#)

##### **Various days from Monday, August 9 to Tuesday, August 17**

New Faculty Teaching days are intended for all new faculty who have arrived since September 1, 2020 as well as any new faculty who were unable to attend our sessions last year or are new to their current teaching assignment. Instructors will have the opportunity to complete the following workshops: Who Are Our Learners; Blended Course Design; and Copyright, Library Services, and Academic Integrity

#### [XR Activities at Georgian College](#)

##### **Friday, August 20 — 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm**

Rob Theriault will provide an overview of XR initiatives at Georgian College, a recognized leader in XR technology applications. Rob is Immersive Technology Lead at Georgian College, President of the Canadian Chapter of the Immersive Learning Research Network, author, researcher, blogger, speaker, EdTech enthusiast, and EV owner.

### Teaching Assistant Training

Is your department interested in providing training for your fall Teaching Assistants? CTE will offer four asynchronous online modules in mid-August. The topics are:

- [Preparing to TA at Waterloo](#)
- [Teaching Online: Basic Skills for TAs](#)
- [Giving and Receiving Feedback](#)
- [Supporting Student Mental Health](#)

If interested in offering these trainings to your TAs, please contact [Kristin Brown](#)

### New Teaching Tip Sheet: Resilient Course Design

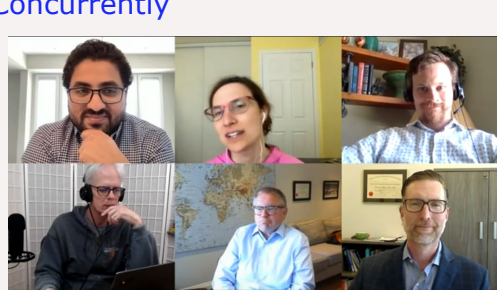
Resilient course design is a framework for understanding how to design courses that are less susceptible to disruption. Undertaking resilient course design involves creating a [blended course](#) that can be completed fully online if circumstances arise, whether due to campus closures or required student absences (e.g., self-isolation). The design choices allow both students and instructors to seamlessly pivot between online and in-person formats for various course activities. To assist instructors in this regard, CTE has developed a new Teaching Tip Sheet: [Resilient Course Design](#).

### New CTE Videos

The following online sessions took place in the past month and are available on the CTE YouTube channel.

- [Teaching Online and On Campus Courses Concurrently](#)

This fall one of the scheduling options for Waterloo instructors is courses that include an on-campus section "held with" a synchronous remote section. In this webinar, instructors from various disciplines share their experiences teaching these concurrent class sessions. (1 hour and 15 minutes)



- [Universal Design and Accessibility](#)

Now more than ever, since our transition to remote teaching and an increase in blended learning, it's important to consider how to create learning experiences accessible to all students. This not only entails ensuring that the documents, resources, and lesson materials are accessible, but that the very design of our activities and assessments allows for all students to succeed. Be proactive about accessibility needs by building your course with universal design principles in mind. This approach will benefit all students, not just students with disabilities. (18 minutes)

- [Faculty of Health Fall 2021 Prep Workshop](#)

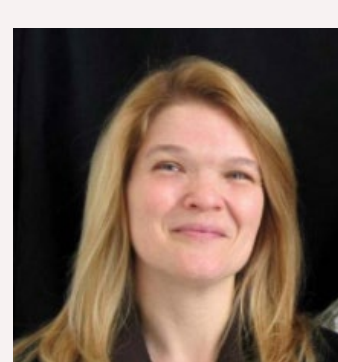
In preparation for the upcoming fall term, this session was designed for all instructors interested in best practices for remote teaching in the Faculty of Health. Key topic areas include conferencing tools, synchronous versus asynchronous delivery, alternatives to final exams, and student engagement.

### Staff changes

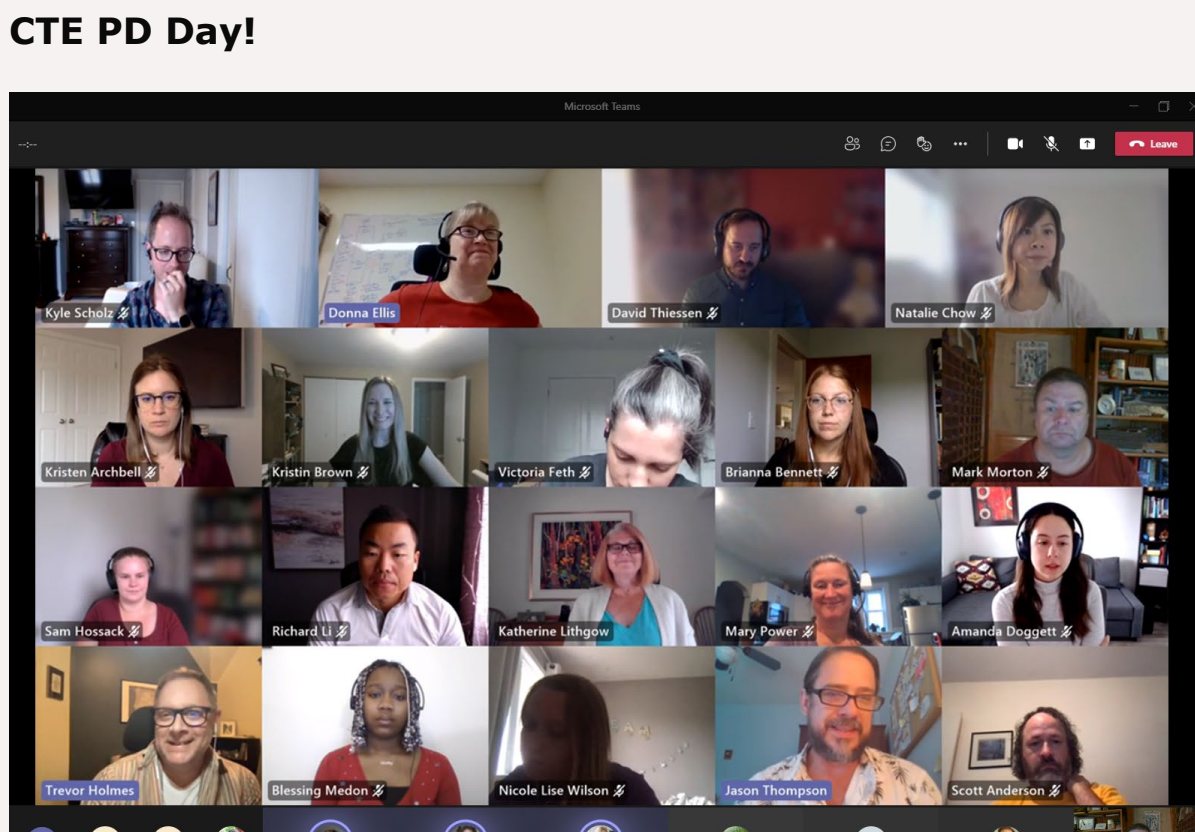


Victoria Feth, Faculty Liaison for Arts, will be on parental leave from August 9, 2021 to May 2022.

[Lynn Long](#), who has worked for CTE in the past in several capacities, will be replacing Victoria until her return.



### CTE PD Day!



On July 13, CTE continued its practice of holding an annual Professional Development Day -- even though we had to do so online! Given the tumult and stress of the past 15 months, our theme was "well being." We shared strategies for maintaining mental well-being, held small group sessions on well-being at work (which included interrogating the idea of "productivity"), and discussed as a large group how to best support the well-being of our colleagues, both within and beyond CTE. The day concluded with an online yoga session (for those who wanted to take part!). A big thank you to the CTE staff who organized this splendid day!

To subscribe to CTE's In the Loop newsletter, [click here](#).

- [f](#) CTE's Facebook page
- [X](#) CTE's Twitter
- [G](#) CTE's website

The Centre for Teaching Excellence acknowledges that we are located on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometers on each side of the Grand River.

Copyright © 2018 Centre for Teaching Excellence. All rights reserved.

**Our mailing address:**  
 Centre for Teaching Excellence  
 University of Waterloo  
 Waterloo, ON, Canada  
 N2H 3A3  
[cte@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cte@uwaterloo.ca)  
[cte.uwaterloo.ca](http://cte.uwaterloo.ca)

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).